

November 1, 2018

Dear Team,

Can I just say that I continue to be in awe of my students? You truly are our guardians of health! Our Student Association kicked off the month with a Dean's Forum and some of our students are ending the month with annual fall Bridge to Care Refugee Health Fair. I appreciate everyone who attended the Dean's Forum. It's always a highlight for me and I appreciate the questions and suggestions that come my way. Some of our students will demonstrate public health in action as they help provide crucial health education, screening, and services to hundreds of refugees who call Omaha home. Bridge to Care is supported, in part, by our Center for Reducing Health Disparities.

Sandwiched in between these events, I had the chance to have lunch with our Fulbright Scholars Sabine Chengane, Sarah Mohammad, and Josiane Kabayundo. To say that they are impressive is an understatement. Their experiences, ambition, and most of all, their bravery inspired me.

This month also marked National Coming Out Day. It was great to join the campus celebration of LGBTQ+ employees and allies. A great reminder that inclusivity and diversity are core to our public health mission.

Some of you might remember the NE150 Challenge that began last year. I remember it very vividly as I made a friendly wager with Karoly Mirnics of MMI for a little inter-campus rivalry, and they crushed the COPH. I digress...the challenge is back and it's not too late to sign up; join the UNMC team today!

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, PLEASE go get your flu shot if you haven't already. Flu vaccination clinics are available on campus; be sure to protect yourself and others! The holidays are coming and who wants to spend them sick with influenza.

Recently, the College signed an affiliation agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to be an academic health department. It will ensure expansion of our collaborative activities, technical assistance, capacity development, and most of all, student opportunities. In this vein, with the NDHHS, the College hosted the Nebraska ALIGN meeting of all healthcare providers, payors, and other experts in the state to improve individual, practice, and population health.



Thanks to Susan Thomas and Freddie Gray, our Panel of Advisors co-chairs for an excellent set of discussions on climate change, rural health, and tribal health issues. We're lucky to have such great advocates for the College of Public Health.

I hope to see many of you at APHA next month. I'm looking forward to see our student and faculty presentations! If you haven't RSVP'd to our annual reception, please do so by emailing Cathy Ely at catherine.ely@unmc.edu.

Always listening,

ask

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH

Retired Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS

Dean and Professor

College of Public Health | Office of the Dean